

The following list of claims replaces any prior listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A gateway device placed on the site of a phone switching station, comprising:

a plurality of communication lines to be connected to a plurality of telephone equipment placed on the site of a subscriber;

a communication line type dependent signal processing unit operable to perform the signal processing in accordance with the type of the communication line, and to perform voice communication with said telephone equipment through said communication line;

an identifier generation unit operable to generate a caller identifier for identifying said telephone equipment and an intended recipient identifier for identifying a communication equipment of the intended recipient of said telephone equipment on the basis of a control signal from said telephone equipment;

a conversion unit operable to convert voice signals of said voice communication into packet signals and vice versa;

a packet transmitter receiver unit operable to transmit and receive said packet signals on the basis of said caller identifier and said intended recipient identifier;

a determination unit operable in order that said voice signals are output to a subscriber line exchange without conversion into packet signals depending upon said intended recipient identifier;

a subscriber database for registering a default communication network and a communication network to be connected respectively for said subscribers in association with said intended recipient identifier;

and

a TDSW module that serves to perform a time division multiplexing process in order to input the voice signals to the subscriber line exchange,

wherein when a failure occurs in a communication line, said determination unit searches said subscriber database on the basis of said intended recipient identifier in order to select a communication network to be connected on the basis of the search result; and

said communication line type dependent signal processing unit makes a bypass connection through the other communication line without conversion into packet signals.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A voice conversation system for use in voice conversation through a phone switching station with a telephone equipment placed on the site of a subscriber, comprising:

a plurality of communication lines to be connected to a plurality of telephone equipment placed on the site of a subscriber;

a communication line type dependent signal processing unit operable in the phone switching station side to perform the signal processing in accordance with the type of the communication line, and to perform voice communication with said telephone equipment through said communication line;

an identifier generation unit operable in the phone switching station side to generate a caller identifier for identifying said telephone equipment and an intended recipient identifier for identifying a communication equipment of the intended recipient of said telephone equipment on the basis of a control signal from said telephone equipment;

a conversion unit operable to convert voice signals of said voice communication into packet signals and vice versa;

a packet transmitter receiver unit operable in the phone switching station side to transmit and receive said packet signals on the basis of said caller identifier and said intended recipient identifier;

a determination unit operable in order that said voice signals are output to a subscriber line exchange without conversion into packet signals depending upon said intended recipient identifier;

a subscriber database for registering a default communication network and a communication network to be connected respectively for said subscribers in association with said intended recipient identifier; and

a TDSW module that serves to perform a time division multiplexing process in order to input the voice signals to the subscriber line exchange,

wherein when a failure occurs in a communication line, said determination unit searches said subscriber database on the basis of said intended recipient identifier in order to select a communication network to be connected on the basis of the search result; and

said communication line type dependent signal processing unit makes a bypass connection through the other communication line without conversion into packet signals.

5. (Original) The voice conversation system as claimed in claim 4 further comprising an access multiplexer operable to transmit and receive the digital signals separated as packet signals from signals which are transmitted and received through said communication line.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A voice conversation method for use in voice conversation through a phone switching station with a plurality of telephone equipment placed on the site of a subscriber, comprising the steps of:

transmitting and receiving voice signals in the phone switching station side through a plurality of communication lines connected to said a plurality of telephone equipment;

selecting a communication network to be connected based on the basis of a control signal from the telephone equipment;

generating a caller identifier for identifying said telephone equipment and an intended recipient identifier for identifying a communication equipment of the intended recipient of said telephone equipment on the basis of a control signal from said telephone equipment, and converting voice signals of said voice communication into packet signals and vice versa in the phone switching station side;

transmitting and receiving said packet signals on the basis of said caller identifier and said intended recipient as selected communication network in the phone switching station side; and

processing a signal in accordance with the type of the communication line of the intended recipient as selected, and performing a time division multiplexing process to input the voice signals to the subscriber line exchange in the phone switching station side; and,

wherein, in said step of selecting a communication network; a subscriber database is provided for registering a default communication network and a communication network to be connected respectively for said subscribers in association with said intended recipient identifier, when a failure occurs in a communication line, said subscriber database is searched on the basis

of said intended recipient identifier in order to select a communication network to be connected on the basis of the search result, and a bypass connection through the other communication line is made without conversion into packet signals.

9. (Previously Presented) The voice conversation method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the digital signals separated from signals which are transmitted and received through said communication line are transmitted and received as packet signals in the phone switching station side when transmitting and receiving voice signals.

10-11. (Cancelled)